



## **LAKE DILLON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT** 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

*Unwavering dedication to serve our community  
with integrity, compassion and professionalism*

**Lake Dillon Fire Protection District**  
**(970) 262-5100**  
**To report an emergency, call 9-1-1**  
**[www.ldfr.org](http://www.ldfr.org)**

Follow us on Facebook at [Lake Dillon Fire-Rescue](#)  
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**A Lake Dillon firefighter gets mobbed by school children during 2015 Fire Prevention Week in October as part of the “firefighters are your friends” lesson that teaches youngsters not to hide from firefighters trying to find them inside a burning building.**

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**On the cover: Lake Dillon firefighters head in to battle the Brush Creek wildfire, which began on Oct. 2 just south of the Green Mountain Reservoir. An aggressive LDFR response – aided by lots of our neighboring departments – helped contain this potentially bad fire. Photo credit: LDFR engineer Kyle Iseminger**



Lake Dillon Fire-Rescue experienced big changes in 2015. We said farewell to two retiring, long-term members of our family – Chief Dave Parmley and Finance Manager Linda Boucher – and we welcomed several new firefighters. I am gratified that our Board of Directors has chosen me to take on the responsibilities of chief, and I am very pleased to be leading such a talented and caring group of individuals.

Additionally, LDFR saw promotions at the assistant chief, battalion chief, lieutenant and engineer ranks. The depth of talent and dedication we have on our staff is truly a great benefit to our community.

The year challenged us with several complex incidents, such as the Flight for Life helicopter accident on July 3 and the Brush Creek wildfire, which began on Oct. 2. Our firefighters and staff stepped up to these challenges and dealt with them in a prompt, professional manner.

We regret that two lives were lost to fire in 2015; one in a fast-moving house fire in Silverthorne and the other in the Flight for Life crash.

Lake Dillon Fire continues to focus on the all-hazards approach to community service. While only about two percent of our emergency calls actually involve fires, we respond to all manner of emergency-medical and hazardous-materials incidents. Vehicle accidents on a busy Interstate 70 and Loveland Pass also contribute to a large percentage of our calls for service.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the efforts of administrative staff, including our Fire Prevention Division. The team effort behind the scenes not only reduces the number of fires we experience, but also educates the public about the many aspects of fire and life safety.

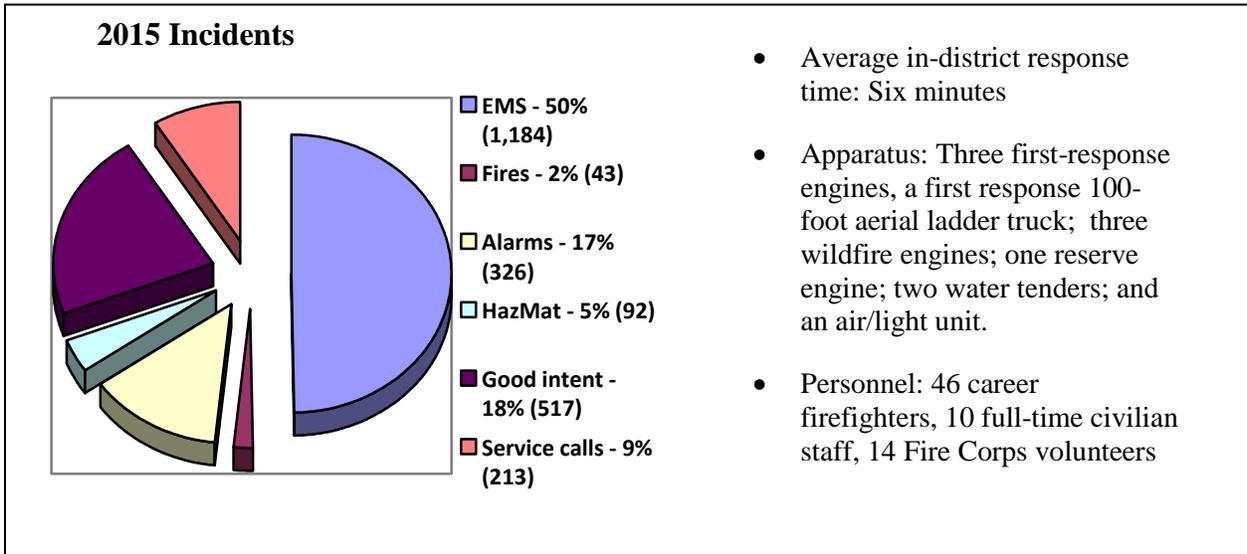
We also became involved with a new concept in Summit County emergency-medical services, teaming our personnel with those from the Summit County Ambulance Service in cross-staffing an ambulance based out of our Keystone station.

I'm pleased to report that with the retirement of a lease-purchase agreement for Station 8 in Dillon, the sale of an unneeded employee-housing building and the disposal of a couple of aging fire engines, Lake Dillon Fire finished 2015 completely debt free.

I am very proud of our organization and the incredible progress we have made in 2015. As we look forward to 2016, we are eager to begin the formal process of fire-service accreditation, planning for the future of our buildings and keeping our fleet of vehicles updated.

As always, we look forward to providing a safe environment and outstanding service to the citizens and visitors to Summit County. We wish to thank the public for the trust and confidence that it has placed in us, and we look forward to fulfilling our mission statement: ***“Unwavering dedication to serve our community with integrity, compassion and professionalism.”***

**OPERATIONS HIGHLIGHTS**



**OPERATIONS**

LDFPD has full-time, staffed fire stations in Frisco, Dillon and Keystone.

The firefighters operate on a three-shift schedule, which entails 48 hours on duty and 96 hours off. Each station has a four-person crew comprised of a firefighter/EMT, a firefighter/paramedic, a driver/engineer and a lieutenant.

Each shift is supervised by a battalion chief, and additional chief officers work weekdays during business hours and are available during non-office hours via pager.

The apparatus at each station complements the specific needs and demands for service in that location.

All LDFPD firefighters have the minimum medical training of basic emergency medical technicians. Additionally they are certified in hazardous-materials operations and have current federal wildfire “red cards.” In addition, the majority of our firefighters have



**Assistant Chief Joe Hegenderfer**

advanced training and certification in specialty areas such as: para-medicine hazardous materials, ice rescue, confined space rescue, trench rescue, extrication and wildfire tactics.



**The Flight for Life helicopter crash and fire on July 2 stunned Summit County’s entire emergency-response community and forced Lake Dillon firefighters to rush to the aid of those with whom they have personal and professional friendships. Tragically, pilot Pat Maheny died as a result of the crash.**

For the 43 Lake Dillon firefighters and officers, 2015 was a very busy year. The 2,409 incidents reflected an 8 percent increase over 2014.

A firefighter’s day is spent doing many things other than responding to incidents. As an all-hazards response agency, we strive to be ready for whatever type of incident we encounter. Training is a daily occurrence, and in 2015 firefighters spent 9,439 hours training for fire, emergency medical services, hazardous materials, technical rescues, incident command, apparatus driving, officer development, emerging threats and other topics.

In 2015, firefighters conducted hundreds of fire-code inspections and performed pre-fire planning in many of our businesses and multi-family residential complexes. They conducted fire drills in all our schools and

assisted with various public-education programs such as the Safe Summer Kick Off, Fire Prevention Week, “Ready, Set, Go!” program, among others.

Last year, operations personnel began a joint operation with Summit County Ambulance Service to staff Medic Unit 11, based out of our Keystone station. We now have 18 firefighters trained and rotating duties on Medic 11. These personnel are also available to staff other medic units during extremely busy periods. This has been a great benefit to emergency medical service in Summit County.

Fortunately 2015 was a relatively wet summer, enabling Lake Dillon Fire to send a wildfire crew to assist our neighbors in California and Idaho. Firefighters gained valuable experience about the many aspects of combatting large wildfires.

## FIRE PREVENTION

The Fire Prevention Division is composed of five full-time personnel and one part-time office administrator. Our primary function is fire code enforcement and public education.

Our daily operations include:

- Fire safety inspections of existing buildings within the district.
- New construction plan reviews, field inspection and testing of fire protection systems.
- Fire safety education and training for citizens, schools and communities.
- Site plan and PUD reviews for new projects and subdivisions.
- Issuing operational permits for controlled burns, special events and fire mitigation inspections.
- Fire investigation.

With continuing strong showings in new construction, Lake Dillon Fire saw a 15 percent increase in construction permits from 2014. Some of the larger projects handled in 2015 included the Wellness Office Building, the Nava Mall, and Natural Grocers in Frisco; the remodel of the Arapahoe Basin ticket office; and in Silverthorne, the completion of the Hampton Inn & Suites and a major addition to the Breckenridge Laundry.



**Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Steve Skulski**

Our public-education outreach included teaching fire-safety lessons to 1,359 students in 47 sessions at our four elementary schools, private pre-schools and a charter school during October's Fire-Prevention Week activities; 121 defensible-space inspections of new development and existing properties; presentations to homeowner's associations, business organizations and civic groups; and participation in community events such as Safe Summer Kickoff, the Frisco Family Fun Fest and our first-ever ice-cream socials in September which attracted more than 500 visitors to our fire stations in Keystone, Dillon and Frisco.

A fire department permit is required for all non-residential tenant finishes, remodels, new construction (including multi-unit residences), fire-detection and suppression systems and permits required by the fire code.

Please see <http://lakedillonfirerescue.org/permits-and-services> for more information or call the Lake Dillon Fire Prevention Division at (970) 262-5201.



Lake Dillon firefighters teamed up with the American Red Cross to inspect, and, as required, replace or install smoke-detector batteries for Summit Cove residents in July. A limited number of free smoke detectors are available at the LDFR station in Frisco to residents who cannot afford them.

## **FIRE PREVENTION**

- Every home should have at least one working smoke alarm; better to have one on every floor, in every bedroom and in the hallways outside bedrooms.
- Carbon-monoxide detectors are recommended for each residence.
- Never overload circuits or extension cords. Do not place cords and wires under rugs, over nails or in high traffic areas.
- Portable heaters need their space. Keep anything combustible at least three feet away.
- Use fireplace screens and have your wood burning chimney cleaned annually. The creosote buildup can ignite a chimney fire that could easily spread.
- Plan your escape in case of a fire. Discuss alternative exits with everyone in the family and determine a meeting place such as at a neighbor's house or a nearby landmark.

**Where can I go for more information?**

<http://www.ldfr.org>

[http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home\\_fire\\_prev/](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/)

<http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/home-fire>



**LDFR firefighters light a “back fire” to burn vegetation between structures and the Brush Creek wildfire in October. Creating adequate fire breaks is critical to saving property. Credit: LDFR Capt. Jason Bell.**

## **WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND PREPARATION**

Life in the high country necessitates preparations for the threat of wildfires. The LDFPD maintains a robust program to assist businesses, property owners and visitors to prepare for wildfire. All Lake Dillon firefighters are wildfire certified and routinely deploy to assist in fighting wildfires nationwide to help others and hone their wildfire skills to ensure readiness should Summit County be threatened by fire.

LDFPD wildfire specialists are available to property owners, businesses and organizations for site-specific consultations. Lake Dillon Fire personnel can provide insights and instructions on how to prepare a property to improve wildfire defense and can assist groups, businesses and families to develop evacuation procedures. For consultations or assessment assistance, please contact [pio@ldfr.org](mailto:pio@ldfr.org).

Lake Dillon Fire personnel also routinely engage in county-wide pre-planning activities to remain knowledgeable and vigilant about developments that affect the ability of firefighters to operate and gain access in advance of a wildfire threat. Additionally, Lake Dillon Fire specialists are available for free presentations and discussions with homeowners’ associations, civic groups, business organizations and schools about preparing ourselves, our families and our homes for the event of a wildfire.



LDFR crews were joined by firefighters from neighboring departments to control the fast-moving, erratic Brush Creek Wildfire north of Silverthorne in October. Residents are advised to prepare for wildfire season in the spring. Credit: Matt Renoux/KUSA-9News

### Wildfire tips

- Prepare a wildfire emergency evacuation kit and keep it in your vehicle summer.
- Conduct an inventory of valuable items and make copies of important documents to be stored on the internet cloud, in a bank safety-deposit box or with a friend or relative in another community.
- Design and landscape your home with wildfire safety in mind. Select materials and plants that can help resist fire rather than fuel it. Plant fire-resistant trees and shrubs. Maintain adequate defensible space, cleared of combustible vegetation, around your home.
- Regularly clean roofs and gutters.
- Inspect woodstove and fireplace chimneys at least twice a year. Clean them once a year.
- Use 1/8-inch mesh screen beneath porches, decks, floor areas, and the home itself. Also, screen openings to floors, roof and attic to repel flying embers.
- Clear items that will burn from around the house, including wood piles, lawn furniture, barbecue grills, tarp coverings, etc. Move them outside of your defensible space.
- Please sign up for Summit County Alert, a free text and/or e-mail notification service, at [www.scalert.org](http://www.scalert.org).

### Where can I go for more information?

- [www.ldfr.org/wildfire](http://www.ldfr.org/wildfire)
- <http://www.wildlandfirersg.org/>
- <http://www.co.summit.co.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/403>

## SUPPORT SERVICES

The Support Services Division is tasked with supporting the functions of the fire district in the following areas:

- Building and facility maintenance
- Fleet services
- Information technology
- Communications equipment
- Bulk purchasing and supply
- Coordination of the volunteer Fire Corps group

Support Services is primarily housed out of Station 11 in Keystone. The division is staffed by five full-time employees: the Support Services assistant chief, fleet manager, fleet services technician, systems administrator and support services technician.

Among the Support Services highlights:

We wrapped up three-year project to install station-alerting systems in the primary response stations that started in 2013. The primary goals of the project were to shorten response time and improve firefighter health and wellness by employing a more gradual method to alert responders to calls, as well as eliminating the need for firefighters to depend on pagers in the stations. The department's Fleet Services Division continues to do an outstanding job of maintaining apparatus from LDFPD and the surrounding fire departments.



**Support Services Assistant Chief Bruce Farrell**

The all-volunteer Fire Corps was particularly busy in 2015, responding to six incidents and continuing to support LDFR operations and participating in community events.

Our in-house Fleet Services Division, a joint operation of all three Summit County fire departments, completed 115 preventative-maintenance services and 197 repairs on fire apparatus.

Finally, Lake Dillon Fire acquired a new engine in 2015, replacing an aging engine now relegated as a reserve. The cost was about \$550,000. Additionally, the department sold an aging water tender and an older engine.

### What's on a new fire engine?

- 2,500 feet of hose, \$11,800
- Eight nozzles, \$6,700
- Ladders, \$1,100
- Extrinsic tools, \$20,000
- Deck gun, \$8,000
- Power saws, \$7,000
- Smoke fans, \$5,000
- Thermal-imaging camera, \$10,000
- Heart monitor, \$20,000
- Four self-contained breathing apparatus with bottles, \$28,000

## ADMINISTRATION

The Administrative Division is made up of a finance manager, an office manager/payroll manager and an office assistant.

Highlights in 2015 included:

- The district remains financially sound and is now debt free after the retirement of the lease-purchase agreement for Station 8 in Dillon.
- Owners of two properties in the Lower Blue area north of Silverthorne elected to join the district. This brings the total of properties that joined the district in the last few years to 71.
- New Lake Dillon Fire Protection District director Jen Barchers was sworn in to replace outgoing Kelly



**Finance Manager Mary Hartley**

Greene, a former assistant chief with the department.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

Among the highlights in 2015 for Human Resources:

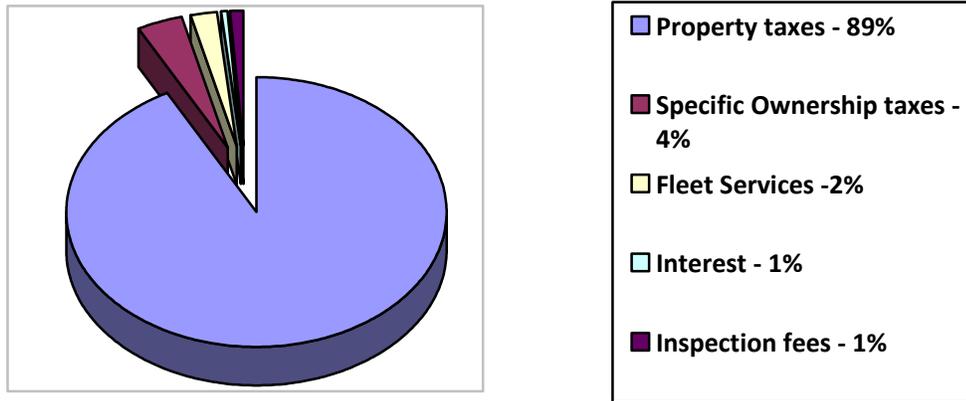
- Promoted Ryan Grafmiller and Rob Beesley to firefighter technicians, Rob Beesley to engineer, Aaron Kaltenbach to lieutenant, Shaun Sawyer to battalion chief, Joe Hegenderfer to assistant chief and Jeff Berino to chief.
- Hired finance manager Mary Hartley; firefighters Jeremiah Smith, Shannan Stensvad, Josiah Christian and Jenna Watson; and firefighter/medic Mike Waxler.



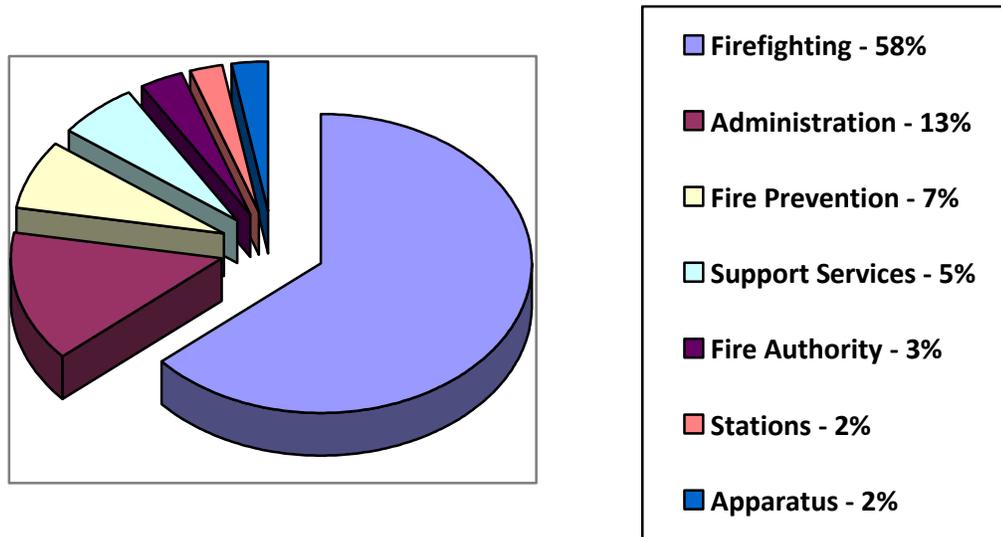
**HR Manager Matt Scheer**

**LDFPD GENERAL FUND 2016 OPERATING BUDGET**

**PROJECTED INCOME: \$7,978,164**



**PROJECTED EXPENDITURES: \$8,408,449**



**2016 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

- A cash order was made for a \$550,000 replacement fire engine from Pierce Manufacturing, delivered in the fall of 2015
- General Fund income for 2016 reflects a 9.4 percent increase from 2015
- General Fund operating expenditures reflect a 6.9 percent increase over 2015
- Major capital expenditures for 2016 include a replacement battalion chiefs' vehicle, a replacement tactical water tender and information-technology upgrades

## DISTRICT-WIDE ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- Lake Dillon firefighters, administrators and fire-prevention staff conducted more than **20 complimentary wildfire-preparation discussions** with homeowners' groups, community organizations and in public forums.
- Another **2 property owners** in the unincorporated area north of Silverthorne elected to join the Lake Dillon Fire Protection District.
- Lake Dillon Fire conducted more than **400 life-safety inspections** of existing properties.
- Lake Dillon Fire's Fire Prevention Division issued **339 permits** for fire-protection systems, new construction, renovations and special events, generating **\$147,347 in fees**.
- For the seventh year in a row, Lake Dillon Fire hosted the Colorado State Fire Chiefs' annual Fire Leadership Challenge Conference, attracting **500 attendees** to Keystone.
- Lake Dillon firefighters participated in more than **9,400 hours** of fire and EMS training.
- Emergency response calls increased by 8 percent in 2015 as compared with 2014.
- Lake Dillon wildfire crews assisted California firefighters in battling blazes in the Sierra and Six Rivers national forests.
- 2015 revenues **exceeded budget by 1.3 percent**.
- Capital reserves remain at healthy levels, allowing for acquisition of major items such as two new engines without incurring any additional debt and installation of station alerting systems; in addition, LDFPD became entirely debt-free by the end of 2015.
- The Fire Prevention Division conducted **121 defensible-space inspections and reviews**.
- Fire losses in the district were **\$3.4 million**, but Lake Dillon firefighters **saved an estimated \$8.4 million** of property at direct risk of fire.
- Lake Dillon Fire hosted its **first ice-cream socials** in September, attracting more than **500 visitors** to stations in Keystone, Dillon and Frisco.
- Mutual-aid agreements were enhanced and formalized with Clear Creek County Fire, Kremmling Fire and Hot Sulpher Springs/Parshall Fire Protection Districts.
- The department went through an Insurance Services Office review and significantly reduced our ISO rating, saving our citizens and businesses on insurance premiums.



## LDFPD GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Our Number 1 priority is to ensure that there are no firefighter or citizen fatalities due to fire.
- The citizens of the Lake Dillon Fire Protection District will be educated and prepared to increase fire survivability, prevent fires and reduce fire loss.
- All members of the community who receive emergency and support services from Lake Dillon Fire Protection District will be able to communicate and interact effectively with representatives of the department.
- The citizens of the Lake Dillon Fire Protection District will be served by firefighters who are physically fit, fully prepared, trained and equipped to provide all emergency and support services to the highest standards.

**Lake Dillon Fire Protection District Board of Directors:** President Jim Cox, Vice-President Robert Sollenberger, Treasurer Larry Gilliland and Directors Lori Miller and Jen Barchers.

**Command and Senior Staff:** Chief Jeff Berino, Operations Assistant Chief Joe Hegenderfer, Fire Prevention Division Assistant Chief and Fire Marshal Steve Skulski, Support Services Assistant Chief Bruce Farrell, Finance Manager Mary Hartley and Human Resources Manager Matt Scheer.

<u>Station 2</u>	<u>Station 8</u>	<u>Station 10 Administration</u>	<u>Station 11</u>
301 S. Eighth Ave. Frisco, CO 80443	225 Lake Dillon Drive Dillon, CO 80435	401 Blue River Parkway Silverthorne, CO 80498	22393 U.S. 6 Keystone, CO 80435

For more information about the Lake Dillon Fire Protection District, contact Public Information Officer Steve Lipsher at (970) 262-5109 or at [pio@ldfr.org](mailto:pio@ldfr.org).

**For EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE - CALL 9-1-1**